

Lancaster County Substance Abuse Action Coalition (SAAC)
Keep On Track - Juvenile Criminal Justice Team
April 26, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.
Independence Center - 1650 Lake St.

In attendance: Melissa Beecher, BJ Brittenham, Sara Wolter, Scott Carlson, Corey Steele, Pat Carlson, Michelle Nelson

Update on cross training with criminal justice and treatment professionals

BJ talked to Jerome reporting that he said if we develop some goals that he would take them to the state for approval to satisfy CEUs for Juvenile Justice Training.

The group discussed the length of the training and decided that a half-day training in the afternoon would be more feasible. BJ and Corey are going to put some information together and work towards having the training in the fall around October.

Update on SAAC Strategic Plan

Melissa stated that the small group met to work on the SAAC criminal justice strategic plan. During this meeting several issues that were not in Otto's original draft plan were discussed. Melissa felt that there might be other issues that should be included so she developed a feedback form for everyone to fill out or send to others that could offer feedback. Melissa agreed to email the form to everyone so they could forward it to others via email. Scott stated that feedback had already been gathered by Otto and questioned the importance of the strategic plan and if it would just relate to one agency's needs. Melissa stated that the draft was developed over a year ago and after the small group meeting she realized that the issues have changed and we need to make sure we include all the issues. Melissa explained that the value of having a plan is that it serves as a guide for this group by identifying action steps the group would work on. Corey added that this plan is required when applying for grants so it is essential that it is updated.

Scott expressed concern that the plan Otto outlined did not relate to criminal justice and just related to treatment. Scott suggested some changes in wording for the form to relate more to criminal justice and they were made. Melissa explained that most of the discussion surrounding the issues identified by the small group did involve youth in the criminal justice system. Melissa asked BJ what percent of her youth in treatment were in the criminal justice system to make sure we were targeting the correct group of youth. BJ estimated that 99% of the in treatment were involved in the juvenile justice system.

Other Short-term Committee Priorities

It was suggested that next meeting everyone bring information about his or her programs and services to share with the group. Melissa stated that Jill was concerned that many people are unaware of programs and services. Jill stated that many youth in treatment are unaware that they can get LPS credits. Sara stated that the groups are not available in all schools because of cuts but some schools have them.

Melissa asked how youth find out about the credits and was told that treatment providers tell the youth about the credits when they begin treatment.

Update on new time and day for meetings to increase representation

The group also suggested that Melissa find out why some of the group members are not coming to this committee.

Other old or new business

The group briefly discussed the bill in the Legislature that would combine Probation and Parole.

Next meeting date and location

Tuesday May 24th at 10:30 at the Independence Center